

# MEASURING UP 2008

## THE STATE REPORT CARD ON HIGHER EDUCATION



### What is Measuring Up?

The purpose of a state report card is to provide the general public and policymakers with information they can use to assess and improve postsecondary education in each state. *Measuring Up 2008* is the fifth in a series of biennial report cards.

The report card grades states in six overall performance categories: **Preparation:** How adequately does the state prepare students for education and training beyond high school? **Participation:** Do state residents have sufficient opportunities to enroll in education and training beyond high school? **Affordability:** How affordable is higher education for students and their families?

**Completion:** Do students make progress toward and complete their certificates or degrees in a timely manner? **Benefits:** What benefits does the state receive from having a highly educated population? **Learning:** What is known about student learning as a result of education and training beyond high school?

Grades compare the current performance of each state with the best-performing states, but do not compare with past performance. Key indicators (back page) allow states to compare current performance with past performance.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# North Carolina



## PREPARATION

**B-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

North Carolina has consistently improved its performance in preparing its young people for college.

- The proportion of 8th graders scoring well in math has almost tripled over the past 15 years, and the state is the top performer in enrolling high school students in upper-level math.
- About three-quarters of high school students are taught by qualified teachers, which compares well with top states.

## PARTICIPATION

**D+**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Despite improvements, college opportunities for North Carolina residents remain poor.

- The likelihood of enrolling in college by age 19 is fair, but has increased by 25% since the 1990s.
- Thirty-five percent of black young adults are enrolled in college, compared with 41% of whites.

## AFFORDABILITY

**F**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

Higher education has become less affordable for students and their families.

- Poor and working-class families must devote 32% of their income, even after aid, to pay for costs at two-year colleges.
- Financial aid to low-income students has increased but is only fair compared with top states. For every dollar in Pell Grant aid to students, the state spends 70 cents.

## COMPLETION

**B-**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

North Carolina performs fairly well in awarding certificates and degrees.

- Fifty-eight percent of college students complete a bachelor's degree within six years.
- However, only 47% of blacks graduate within six years, compared with 62% of whites.

## REPORT CARD

<b>Preparation</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>Participation</b>	<b>D+</b>
<b>Affordability</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Completion</b>	<b>B-</b>
<b>Benefits</b>	<b>C+</b>
<b>Learning</b>	<b>I</b>

## WHAT DO THE ARROWS MEAN?



State has increased or remained stable on the key indicator in the category.



State has declined on the key indicator in the category.

See back page for key indicator by category.

## BENEFITS

**C+**



2008 Grade Change Over Time

A fairly small proportion of residents have a bachelor's degree, and this weakens the state economy.

- Sixteen percent of blacks have a bachelor's degree, compared with 30% of whites.
- If all racial/ethnic groups had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total annual personal income in the state would be about \$18 billion higher.

## LEARNING

**I**

2008 Grade

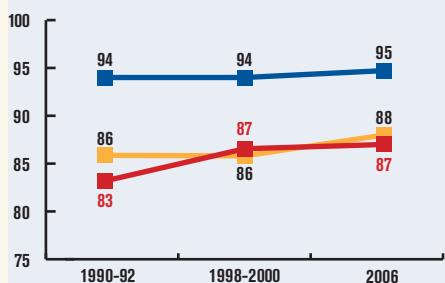
Like all states, North Carolina receives an "Incomplete" in Learning because there is not sufficient data to allow meaningful state-by-state comparisons.

This page reflects North Carolina's performance and progress since the early 1990s on several key indicators.

## PREPARATION

The percentage of young adults in North Carolina who earn a high school diploma has increased since the early 1990s. High school completion is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top-performing states.

Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds with a High School Credential\*



## PARTICIPATION

College enrollment of young adults in North Carolina has improved since the early 1990s. The state is slightly below the national average and well below the top states in the percentage of young adults enrolled.

Percentage of 18-24 Year-Olds Enrolled in College\*



The enrollment of working-age adults, relative to the number of residents without a bachelor's degree, has declined in North Carolina—as it has nationally and in the best-performing states. The percentage attending college in North Carolina is slightly below the U.S. average and below the top states.

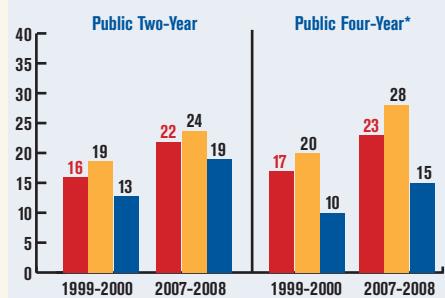
Percentage of 25-49 Year-Olds Without a Bachelor's Degree Enrolled in College



## AFFORDABILITY

The share of family income, even after financial aid, needed to pay for college has risen substantially. To attend public two- and four-year colleges in North Carolina, students and families pay less than the U.S. average but more than those in the best-performing states.

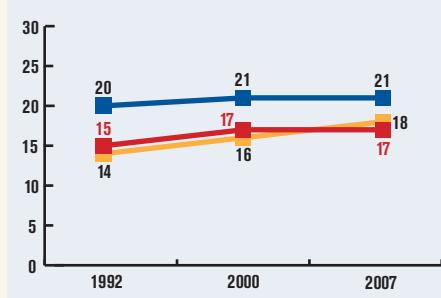
Percentage of Income Needed to Pay for Public Two- and Four-Year Colleges



## COMPLETION

The number of undergraduate credentials and degrees awarded in North Carolina, relative to the number of students enrolled, has increased since the early 1990s. North Carolina performs near the U.S. average but below the top states on this measure.

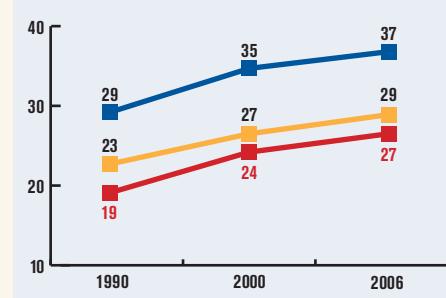
All Degree Completions per 100 Students\*



## BENEFITS

The percentage of residents who have a bachelor's degree has increased in North Carolina, but is below the U.S. average and well below the top states.

Percentage of 25-64 Year-Olds with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher\*



\*Key indicator for the category.

## LEGEND:

- & ■ = North Carolina
- & □ = United States
- & ■ = Median of Top Five States



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